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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 01048 120923Z
ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5766
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB ILO TS
SUBJECT: UNDP FUNDED ILO ACTIVITIES IN TUNISIA

REF: STATE 3255; STATE 14091

1. EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED UNDP FUNDED ILO ACTIVITIES IN TUNISIA AND THIS TELEGRAM SUMMARIZES MISSION KNOWLEDGE AND OPINION ON PROJECTS. COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS FOLLOW THE NAME OF EACH PROJECT AND ITS NUMBER. GENERAL COMMENTS ON TRIPARTISM, QUALITY OF ILO INPUTS, GOT SUPPORT AND "SUCCESS STORIES" FOLLOW NOTES ON EACH PROJECT.

2. UNDP/ILO PROJECTS IN TUNISIA:
A. EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT (TUN 71-543). TEN EXPERTS WERE PROVIDED IN VARIOUS FIELDS RELATED TO BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND COMPUTER PROGRAMMING. THIS PROJECT WAS INITIATED BY UNDP IN 1968 WHEN THE GOT'S PRODUCTIVITY INSTITUTE HAD HIGH PRIORITY. AFTER 1970, GOT GAVE LITTLE ATTENTION TO INSTITUTE AND AT END OF 1975 IT CEASED TO EXIST. ITS FUNCTIONS WERE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL STUDIES AND A NEWLY-CREATED NATIONAL DATA PROCESSING CENTER. WHILE THE GOT SHOWED LITTLE INTEREST IN PROJECT, UNDP CONTINUED TO GIVE IT HIGH PRIORITY. UNDP OFFICIALS WERE
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 01048 120923Z

DISAPPOINTED AT POOR RESULTS FROM PROJECT AND IT WAS PHASED OUT IN JANUARY 1976.
B. LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS (TUN 71-545). FOUR EXPERTS IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING ARE TO ANALYZE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AND RELATED FACTORS AND DESIGN PROGRAMS TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT. THIS PROJECT IS, TO QUOTE UNDP OFFICIALS IN TUNIS, "NEBULOUS" AT BEST. GOT GIVES HIGH PRIORITY TO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND THE ILO EXPERTS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO
THE WORK OF THE PLANNING MINISTRY BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO
RELATE THEIR WORK TO MEASUREABLE RESULTS.
C. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (TUN 75-002).
THREE EXPERTS WERE TO BE PROVIDED BY THE GOT MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
AFFAIRS SCHOOL OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SERVICE TO AID IN THE
FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMS. ILO
PROVIDED THE REQUIRED EXPERTS AND THEY BEGAN WORK AT THE
INSTITUTE. SATISFACTORY PROGRESS WAS NOT MADE, DUE LARGELY
TO SHORTCOMINGS OF INSTITUTE'S TUNISIAN DIRECTOR, AND UNDP
PHASED OUT ITS PARTICIPATION IN NOVEMBER 1976.
D. EMPLOYMENT POLICY AND TRAINING. THIS PROJECT WAS
ASSOCIATEDLWITH LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS PROJECT AND COMMENTS
IN PARAGRAPH B APPLY TO IT.
E. LABOR ADMINISTRATION. THIS PROJECT WAS ASSOCIATED
WITH OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROJECT AND COMMENTS IN
PARAGRAPH C APPLY TO IT.
F. MANAGEMENT TRAINING. THIS PROJECT WAS ASSOCIATED
WITH EMPLOYMENTDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND COMMENTS IN PARAGRAPH
A APPLY TO IT.
G. VOCATIONAL TRAINING (TUN 69-003). ONE ADVISOR IN
TO THE GOT OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT TO ASSIST THE INTRODUCTION OF
VOCATION TRAINING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.
H. HOTEL AND TOURISM INSTITUTE. SIX EXPERTS WERE TO
BE SUPPLIED BY ILO TO GOT HOTEL SCHOOL IN MONASTIR TO TRAIN
TUNISIANS AS INSTRUCTORS FOR TOURIST HOTEL STAFFS. DIS-
AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOT AND UNDP/TUNIS OVER CHOICE OF TECHNICIANS
AND OTHER BUREAUCRATIC BROBLEMS LED TO THE CANCELLATION OF
PROJECT IN 1974 BY UN RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE. GOT WENT
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AHEAD WITH PROJECT USING WORLD BANK FINANCING AND ILO EXPERTS
TO STAFF NEW HOTEL SCHOOL IN TUNIS. THIS SCHOOL HAS ONLY
RECENTLY BEGUN OPERATIONS AND IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE IF
PROJECT IS SUCCESS.

3. TRIPARTISM. ILO PROJECTS IN TUNISIAN HAVE BEEN CARRIED
OUT IN CONJUNCTION ONLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY.
TRADE UNION AND BUSINESS GROUPS HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED. UNDP
OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT TRIPARTISM SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN
IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
PROJECT BUT THAT SOCIAL SERVICE INSTITUTE'S DIRECTOR WAS
"TOO INTELLECTUALLY ORIENTED" AND RELUCTANT TO MAKE OVERTURES
TO TRADE UNION AND BUSINESS GROUPS TO ENCOURAGE THEIR
PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT ACTIVITIES.

4. QUALITY OF ILO INPUTS. ACCORDING TO UNDP, ILO EXPERTS
HAVE BEEN LINGUISTICALLY AND TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED. THEY
ARE GENERALLY NATIVE SPEAKERS OF FRENCH AND HAVE HAD WIDE
EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. UNDP NOTED THAT ILO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

EXPERTS IN TUNISIA HAVELBEEN "ABOVE EXPECTATIONS".

5. GOT SUPPORT. UNDP BELIEVED THAT PRINCIPAL FACTOR IN UNISPIRING RECORD OF ILO ACTIVITIES IN TUNISIA WAS QUALITY OF GOT SUPPORT. BUREAUCRACY FAILED TO APPRECIATE VALUE OF PROJECTS IN TUNISIA, TO GIVE ILO PARTICIPANTS ADEQUATE SUPPORT, OR TO FOLLOW THROUGH EFFECTIVELY.

6. "SUCCESS STORIES". UNDP OFFICIALS BELIEVED THAT, ON BALANCE, ILO PROJECTS IN TUNISIA HAVE NOT BEEN "SUCCESSES" ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE UNQUESTIONABLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. HE ASSIGNED BLAME FOR THE FAILURE OF PROJECTS TO REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AT DOOR OF GOT AND NOT ILO.
MULCAHY

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**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** N/A
**Errors:** N/A
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**Review Markings:**
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009